

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SALKEHATCHIE
Institutional Effectiveness Report
Fiscal Year 2006-2007

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Student Services

USC Salkehatchie promotes student growth and development in both academic and personal issues of thought and performance in two ways: 1) provides opportunities for students to learn skills of leadership, teamwork, and responsibility through activities supplemental to their classroom experiences, and 2) it engenders in students the values voiced in the Carolina Creed and the encouragement of and support for students' conducting themselves by those values.

These guiding principles direct interactions with students in order to develop in them the necessary elements of good citizenry, within both the academic community and the world at large. Our intended outcomes therefore include, but are not limited to, increasing students' identification and awareness of

- Self and self within the larger context of local, regional, national and global communities;
- Relationships between individuals and organizations and the consequences of choice;
- Diversity in all its disparate forms;
- Importance of clarity in thought, voice, argument, and organization;
- Necessity for curiosity and lifelong learning;
- Importance of critical thinking and problem solving skills, and
- Tolerance for different points of view.

Efforts to attain these outcomes are incorporated into course content areas as well as into more personal relationships with students by administration, faculty, and staff. Other ways in which these are actively pursued are in advisement, counseling, retention efforts, student government and student government activities, and student publications.

Opportunity Scholars Program (OSP)

The Opportunity Scholars Program (OSP) is a TRIO Student Support Services Program at the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie that provides academic and other topical workshops to assist students in study skills, time management, research, and test preparation. OSP hosts a diverse range of cultural events and student activities that expand students' awareness. In the past 4 years, OSP has, on average, provided over 200 hours of math instruction, over 70 hours of English instruction, over 30 hours of advisement to students, four cultural events, and two trips each year.

ALUMNI SURVEY

An Alumni Survey was administered in paper to former students of USC Salkehatchie. Due to the small size of USC Salkehatchie's student body, to the typical weak bond between students and the institution in small public 2-year universities, and to the usual low return rate of mailed surveys, answers were obtained from only 25 alumni (3% of the total alumni body). Incentives to increase the response rate in future surveys are being considered.

Assessment

Alumni survey results revealed that 92% of the survey respondents were either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with their academic preparation in general education programs, instruction in general education programs, and in their overall academic experience. Answers to Questions 3 and 9 provided

contrasting views of the success of incorporation of our intended outcomes for Importance of clarity in thought, voice, argument, and organization; Necessity for curiosity and lifelong learning; and the Importance of critical thinking and problem solving skills within the content areas:

3. *How strongly has your college experience influenced your participation in:*

	2002	2006
<i>Career-related advanced education or training</i>	76%	83%
<i>Lifelong learning studies outside career area</i>	76%	91%
<i>Professional or service organizations</i>	62%	88%
<i>Volunteer, public, or community service</i>	58%	83%
<i>Social/recreational organization</i>	65%	86%
<i>Support or Participation in the Arts</i>	69%	76%
	<i>(% who reported some influence)</i>	

9. *How well did your experience at USC Salkehatchie prepare you in:*

	2002	2006
<i>Oral Communication</i>	96%	83%
<i>Use of Computers and Technology</i>	92%	60%
<i>Math and Data Interpretation</i>	96%	50%
<i>Problem Solving</i>	85%	67%
<i>Workplace Diversity</i>	94%	74%
<i>Interpersonal Skills</i>	94%	94%
	<i>(% who reported 'adequate' or better)</i>	

Whereas the 2006 results for question 3 were considerably better than the 2002 results, the opposite relationship held for question 9. Analysis of the accuracy and precision of the instrument must be conducted to determine the significance of these differences in results.

STUDENT RETENTION/SATISFACTION SURVEY

Because of problems — now solved — in retention of administrative officers, the most recent data available from a campus-wide survey of student satisfaction are those from a 2004 survey. A good response rate (45%) was attained in this survey.

Assessment

Three questions directly addressed student development from the perspective of general education:

1. I am satisfied with the extent of my intellectual development since enrolling at Salkehatchie.
2. My academic experience at Salkehatchie has had a positive influence on my intellectual growth and interest in ideas.
3. Most of my courses this year have been intellectually stimulating.

In this survey, 86% of the students surveyed responded with 'strongly agree' or 'agree' to the above statements.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN THE STATE BY PROVIDING A TECHNOLOGICALLY SKILLED WORKFORCE

As indicated in the institution's Mission/Statement of Purpose, "Salkehatchie offers associate in arts and associate in science degree programs, and its primary purpose is to provide the first two years of a university education, offering USC Columbia courses taught by USC approved faculty." Faculty instruct students in a set of skills and a collection of knowledge about computer skills. To meet these criteria, USC Salkehatchie requires its graduates to possess oral and written communication, critical thinking, and computer skills. To assess computer skills, USC Salkehatchie uses annual teaching evaluations, bi-annual alumni surveys, and student satisfaction surveys.